

Delivering Biodiversity Dividends to the Barratta Creek Catchment

This 4 year project focussed on working with multiple stakeholders to protect, manage and enhance the high ecological functional values of the Barratta Creek Catchment, an artery of the Bowling Green Bay wetlands, the only Ramsar site in North Queensland.

Community Capacity Building & Indigenous Engagement

Summary

The success of the project can in a large part be contributed to the strong partnerships formed within the Burdekin shire community.

Conservation Volunteers Australia have worked with local farmers, landholders, traditional owner work teams, schools and the general public within the community to protect, manage and enhance the Barratta Creek Catchment and build environment resilience for the future.

Key statistics

- 606 volunteers engaged, including 98 farmers
- 3 World Wetlands Day events
- 9 Gudjuda Reference Group team members trained in fire management and participated in Barratta Fire Management committee
- 59 community training days



Indigenous Training Program

Indigenous fire management training was attended by Gudjuda Reference Group Aboriginal Corporation team members representing the Land and Sea Ranger program, the Gudjuda Environmental team and representatives from Sunwater and Conservation Volunteers Australia.

The practical fire course followed two days of intense workshop training. The team learnt a variety of cool burning fire techniques that protect native plant species and allow slower moving ground dwelling species to move ahead of the fire front. As well as saving flora and fauna, cool burns are self extinguishing fires that trickle through the landscape and burn only some of the fuel, helping to prevent the late dry- season hot fires.

In addition to fire training team members within the Gudjuda Reference Group received training on plant ID, seed collection and revegetation techniques.

Community Capacity Building

A community training program was launched involving training days in seed collection, fire management, propagation techniques and alternative weed control. These training days were supported by the local Landcare group, Greening Australia, CVA staff and traditional owner group members. The Barratta Creek Catchment Management group is being reformed to continue to look after the revegetation sites, mainly focusing on weed control to manage the Barratta creek catchment into the future.

Other Community Capacity Building achievements included National Tree Day for Schools 2016, which saw 260 students, teachers and parents from 9 schools planted 1530 trees at Plantation Park in Ayr on National Tree Day. Cane growers restoring on-farm wetlands were given a voice when Burdekin cane grower Vince Papale showed the benefits of on-farm wetlands in a [popular YouTube video](#).





Previous page: Fire Management training group

Front page: National Tree Day For Schools 2016

Above: World Wetlands Day—Youth Photography competition 2015

Below: Women in Sugar technology update presented by Burdekin Shire Council



Land Management Agreements

Land Management Agreements outline who is responsible for undertaking and funding weed and pest control on private and public land. Throughout the project we have been successful in developing and delivering Riparian Land Management Agreements along the Barratta system and the adjacent catchments, working with land owners and stakeholders to ensure long term maintenance of the sites.

Our landholders, including local farmers in the region, have worked with us at every stage ensuring greater custodianship of the land. Agreements range from tree planting to feral fencing.

World Wetlands Day

World Wetlands Day (WWD) was celebrated throughout the project, raising public awareness of wetland values and promoting the wise use of wetlands in the region. WWD falls annual on February 2nd, and each year activities ranged from youth photography competitions to field trips to the Australian Institute of Marine Science, Great Barrier Reef Aquarium and Horseshoe Lagoon near Burdekin.



This project was coordinated by WetlandCare Australia (now merged with Conservation Volunteers Australia) through funding from the Australian Government

Program partners



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Email onereef@cva.org.au

Visit our website www.conservationvolunteers.com.au